Book Reviews

The Western Journal of Medicine *does not review all books sent by publishers, although information about new books received is printed elsewhere in the journal as space permits. Prices quoted are those given by the publishers.*

ENDOCARDITIS—Volume 2 of CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Edited by Merle A. Sande, MD, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, and Chief, Medical Service, San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center; Donald Kaye, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and Richard K. Root, MD, Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, and Chief, Medical Service, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Seattle. Churchill Livingstone Inc, 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1984. 234 pages, $37.50.

This monograph is Volume 2 in the series "Contemporary Issues in Infectious Diseases," edited by two well-known infectious disease investigators, Drs Merle Sande and Richard Root. The volume they have put together on the subject of endocarditis represents a generally superb compilation of reviews dealing with the pathogenesis and pathophysiology, immunologic manifestations of endocarditis, the role of echocardiography in the diagnosis of infective endocarditis, a variety of treatment issues, and concluding reviews on the indications for surgery and current views on endocarditis prophylaxis. Many of the contributing authors have already contributed extensively to the investigative literature of the past ten years on bacterial endocarditis and represent a highly qualified group to prepare this volume.

Particularly valuable in this monograph are the carefully prepared chapters on the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of infective endocarditis, and the chapter dealing with the immunologic aberrations that constitute so much of the clinical syndrome of infective endocarditis. Although most of the contributions have been prepared by infectious disease clinicians and investigators, Dr Randolph Martin, a cardiologist, contributed an excellent chapter on the role of echocardiography in the diagnosis of infective endocarditis. Also very valuable are the contributions dealing with management issues that have either been controversial, or that have clearly evolved significantly in the past decade. These include the treatment of prosthetic valve endocarditis, endocarditis associated with intravenous drug abuse, the role of surgery in the treatment of infective endocarditis and prophylaxis. Although there is a degree of unevenness in treatment, so common in multiauthor volumes, the editors are to be commended for keeping this to a minimum. The price of $37.50 seems fair for this volume, at least by contemporary standards. Technical aspects of the publication are of high quality, and typographical errors are few, indeed.

Although not a volume to be recommended to all primary care physicians, I would recommend it highly for infectious disease specialists and cardiologists. In addition, it should certainly be available in hospital and university medical libraries.

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TEXTBOOK OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY—Edited by James V. Talano, MD, Chief, Cardiac Graphics Laboratory, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Associate Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, and Julius M. Gardin, MD, Acting Chief, Cardiovascular Section, VA Medical Center, Long Beach, Calif; Director, Cardiology Noninvasive Laboratory, and Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of California, Irvine. Grune & Stratton, Inc, 111 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10003, 1983. 420 pages, $45.00.

Echocardiography has evolved rapidly since the early 1970s to the point that currently M-mode and two-dimensional echograms and Doppler echocardiography are frequently all undertaken in a given patient. The authors present a considerable amount of clinical information on two-dimensional echocardiography in this multiauthored textbook. Various chapters deal with a given particular topic in depth and are liberally illustrated. The initial chapters discuss the history and instrumentation followed by anatomy of the heart, a very informative chapter comparing sections of the heart specimen with two-dimensional echocardiographic images. There are several chapters on individual valve diseases including prosthetic valves and associated abnormalities. The authors also discuss assessment of ventricular volumes and function, ischemic heart disease, primary and secondary cardiomyopathies, pericardial disease, intracardiac vegetation and masses. It is heartening to note that the authors have also included a chapter on congenital heart disease now that "adult" cardiologists are encountering more patients with congenital heart disease, especially postoperative.

The last four chapters of the book contain some of the recent advances in echocardiography. Included is a chapter on two-dimensional contrast echocardiography which makes a good overall presentation of the subject including indications and procedures for undertaking contrast echocardiography and contains numerous excellent illustrations. Doppler echocardiography is being increasingly used in clinical echocardiography. The chapter on this subject covers a lot of ground regarding principles, application, assessment of flow, assessment of valve disease and the detection of intracardiac shunts. The final three chapters discuss three-dimensional echocardiography, ultrasound tissue characterization of the myocardium and a very relevant chapter on the comparison of two-dimensional echocardiography with cardiac nuclear and other imaging techniques. The authors do not discuss the issue of when M-mode cardiography should be supplemented by two-dimensional cardiography or vice versa or whether these procedures are complementary and therefore should be undertaken in most patients. However, this book has several outstanding features, especially the abundance of large prominently labeled illustrations. The text is concise and affords easy readability. The organization of the book into various chapters discussing a specific entity in moderate detail is an additional advantage. For example, the chapter on mitral valve disease discusses the appearance of the normal mitral valve, and goes on to present the two-dimensional appearances of the abnormal mitral valve in various disease conditions, along with relevant and brief clinical remarks. For clinicians who undertake their own echocardiograms, there are several technical pointers. The problem of intracardiac masses is presented very well and includes a discussion of vegetations and endocarditis, intracardiac thrombi and tumors. Good discussions and excellent illustrations are used to present various concepts and modes of distinction. References following each chapter are comprehensive and up to date.

I believe practicing cardiologists and trainees in echocardiography will be pleased with the amount and type of material, the organization, the references, the illustrations and the format of the book. In spite of multiauthorship, the book retains an excellent continuity.

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LIPOPLASTY—The Theory and Practice of Blunt Suction Lipectomy—Edited by Gregory P. Hetter, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, and Assistant Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, Sunrise Hospital, Las Vegas; foreword by Mario Gonzalez Ulloa, MD, Director, Dalinde Medical Center, Mexico City. Little, Brown & Co, Medical Division, 34 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02106, 1984. 340 pages, $95.

In the recent past, the use of blunt suction lipectomy or suction-assisted lipectomy has received a great deal of attention in both the lay and the scientific media. It is a technique that has many valid applications in aesthetic and reconstructive plastic surgery.

Much simplified, the technique involves passing a blunt-ended metal tube of appropriate size and shape with a hole in the side of the tube near its end